

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJ: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON OPENING OF 5TH NPC

1. SUMMARY. REVERTING TO PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION PRACTICE, PRC MEDIA ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE THE OPENING DATE FOR THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC). THIS NEWS WAS CARRIED ALONG WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE 4TH CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) INCLUDING ITS DECISION TO CONVENE THE 5TH CPPCC ON FEBRUARY 24, TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE NPC. IN PEKING THERE WAS NO DISCERNIBLE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENTS; NO BANNERS APPEARED, NO SLOGANS HAVE BEEN POSTED, AND THE DRUMS AND GONGS HEARD IN THE STREETS HAILED NOT THE NPC BUT A MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE ON LEARNING FROM TACHING IN INDUSTRY. CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY PASSED THE WORD TO JOURNALISTS THAT NEITHER THEY NOR OTHER FOREIGNERS ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO SIT IN AS OBSERVERS ON SELECTED NPC SESSIONS (AS WAS THE PRACTICE PRIOR TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION).
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END SUMMARY.

2. CULMINATING A WEEK OF AUTHORITATIVE RUMORS THAT "AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE" WAS IN SESSION AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE, PEKING MEDIA ON FEBRUARY 19 ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 5TH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS (NPC) WOULD OPEN IN PEKING ON FEBRUARY 26 BY DECISION OF THE

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE 4TH NPC. THUS FAR THE AGENDA FOR THE CONCLAVE HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OPENING DATE FOR THE NPC REPRESENTS A RETURN TO PRE-CULTURAL REVOLUTION PRACTICE. (THE 4TH NPC, HELD IN JANUARY 1975, WAS CONVENED AND ADJOURNED IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY.) IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT OVERALL HANDLING OF THE CONGRESS WILL SIMILARLY REFLECT THE NEW "OPENNESS"; MORE DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE, INCLUDING LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES, CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED. BUT CHINESE OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMALLY PASSED THE WORD TO JOURNALISTS THAT NEITHER THEY NOR OTHER FOREIGNERS ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO SIT IN AS OBSERVERS ON SELECTED NPC SESSIONS (AS WAS THE PRACTICE PRIOR TO THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION).

4. NEWS OF THE NPC WAS CARRIED ALONG WITH A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE 4TH CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC). THAT SESSION, WHICH MET IN PEKING FROM FEBRUARY 16-18, DECIDED TO CONVENE THE 5TH CPPCC ON FEBRUARY 24; DECIDED A MAIN AGENDA TO INCLUDE THE 4TH CPPCC WORK REPORT, A REVISION OF THE "CPPCC CONSTITUTION", SELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMEN, SECRETARY-GENERAL, AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE 5TH CPPCC, AND SELECTED HOSE TO SIT IN AS OBSERVERS; AND SET THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES (1989) AND ESTABLISHED THE NAME LIST. THE MEETING DISCUSSED DRAFTS OF THE 5TH CPPCC DOCUMENTS, HEARD AN EXPLANATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE NAME LIST BY POLITBURO MEMBER AND UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ULANFU, AND HEARD SPEECHES BY VARIOUS CPPCC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

5. THE PROMINENCE OF ULANFU, UNITED FRONT WORK DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AND AN ETHNIC MONGOLIAN, AND WEI KUO-CHING, THE SOLE ETHNIC CHUANG IN THE TOP LEADERSHIP, UNDERSCORES THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT THE CPPCC HAS BEEN REVIVIFIED WITH AN EYE TO MINORITY POLICY WITHIN CHINA AND UNITED FRONT WORK WITH REGARD TO CHINESE LIVING OVERSEAS.

6. IN PEKING THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCERNIBLE PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS. NO BANNERS HAVE APPEARED, NO SLOGANS HAVE BEEN POSTED, AND THE OCCASIONAL CLAMOR OF DRUMS AND GONGS WAS RELATED NOT TO THE FORTHCOMING NPC BUT TO THE PEKING MUNICIPALITY 2ND CONFERENCE ON LEARNING FROM TACHING IN INDUSTRY, WHICH CLOSED ON FEB 18.

7. ALTHOUGH NEITHER PEOPLE'S DAILY NOR KWANGMING DAILY HAS CARRIED AN ACCOUNT OF THE PEKING TACHING CONFERENCE THUS FAR, PEKING RADIO BROADCAST THROUGHOUT FEB 19 RECORDED SPEECHES BY VARIOUS "HEROES" LAUDED AT THE CONFERENCE. THE

RADIO ACCOUNT INDICATED THAT PEKING FIRST SECRETARY WU TEH
PRESIDED WHILE SECOND SECRETARY NI CHIH-FU DELIVERED THE MAIN
SPEECH.
WOODCOCK

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